

NEWS NOTES

INDOOR MEETINGS TO BE ARRANGED BY THE FIELD COMMITTEE

With the approval of the President of the Torrey Botanical Club, and of the Chairman of the program committee, the field committee plans to hold a number of indoor meetings in the spring and fall of 1937, to discuss subjects of chief interest to those who enjoy the field trips, which may be classed under the general title of "floristics," including taxonomy, ecology, plant distribution, etc. Since it was felt by the program committee that the professional botanists in the club are interested in other phases of botany, at the regular indoor meetings, and since there was evidence of a demand for taxonomy, ecology, etc., on the part of a number of amateur botanists, and active leaders of fields trips, the field committee proposed to Dr. Barnhart and obtained his approval, for the experiment of holding another series of meetings for the presentation and discussion of subjects of that sort.

It is planned to hold these meetings on the second or third Mondays of spring and fall months, Mondays being chosen because many members will have been in the field the day before and will have collected fresh material to bring in for determination and discussion. It is expected that meeting places will be found, at the American Museum of Natural History, at Columbia University, at the Newark Museum, Newark, N. J.; possibly also at the building of the Horticultural Society of New York, and at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Some dates, places and subjects will be announced in the field schedule booklet, when it appears about April 10; others may be left until fall, for perfection of their programs. Announcements will also appear in the bulletin of the New York Academy of Sciences. This new series of indoor meetings is an experiment, to be given a trial during 1937, and the response to and success of the gatherings will determine whether they should be continued.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

Dr. Duncan Star Johnson, since 1906 professor of botany and director of the botanical garden at the Johns Hopkins University, died on February 16 at the age of sixty-nine years.

Benjamin Franklin Bush died on February 14 at his home in Courtney, Missouri. For forty years, until his retirement a few years ago, he was postmaster in his native village. He was an authority on native plants, birds and reptiles. In 1898 and 1899 he made a trip covering 50,000 miles with the late Charles S. Sargent of Harvard in a study of oaks. From 1900 to 1913 he collected shrubs and other plants for Harvard.

Dr. William R. Maxon, since 1914 associate curator in charge of the National Herbarium in the U. S. National Museum under the Smithsonian Institution, has been made curator. (Science)

Fifteen acres of woodland have been added to the Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College, New London. The arboretum has been set aside for the preservation of native plants of the state.

Dr. William Henry Weston, Jr., professor of botany and chairman of the department at Harvard University has been appointed visiting professor of mycology at the Johns Hopkins University. (Science.)

On March 2 Mr. John Grimshaw Wilkinson died at his home in Leeds, England in his eighty-first year. Although blind he had identified and classified more than a thousand plants by the sense of touch. He was an honorary Master of Arts in Leeds University.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden sent out a special news release in early March regarding the flowering at the garden of a tree rare in this country, *Parrotia persica*, the iron tree or Temir-Agatsch, of northern Persia and the region of Mt. Ararat. The tree is a member of the Witch Hazel Family with leaves like those of our native witch hazel, but the bark scaling like that of the sycamore. When the flowers open in early March the thickly clustered stamens peeping from the green bud scales look like young wild strawberries, but by the time the stamens are ready to shed pollen the filaments have lengthened and pushed the anthers out from the buds.